

**CLAIMS:**

1) Use of proteins of the UCP family, or protein fragments of the UCP family, as an active agent, alone or in association with at least one other active agent, in or for the preparation of a dermatological and/or cosmetic composition.

2) Use according to claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned protein fragments of the UCP family are peptide fragments of which the number of amino acids ranges from 3 to 200, and more particularly from 7 to 50.

3) Use according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the active agent is a peptide of formula (I)

(AA)<sub>n</sub> - Pro - X1 - X2 - X1 - X3 - Lys - X1 - Arg - X4 - X5 - (AA)<sub>n</sub>

wherein:

X1 = Leu, Thr, Val;

X2 = Asp, Glu;

X3 = Ala, Val;

X4 = Leu, Phe, Tyr;

X5 = Gln, Ile, Met;

(AA) is any particular amino acid or one of its derivatives, and n is a whole number ranging from 0 to 2.

4) Use according to claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the active agent is a peptide chosen among peptides corresponding to sequence ID N°:

1) Pro Leu Asp Thr Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln

2) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Val Arg Phe Gln

3) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln

4) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Valley Arg Leu Gln

5) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Valley Arg Phe Gln

6) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Ile

7) Pro Val Asp Val Valley Lys Thr Arg Tyr Met

8) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Met

9) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Tyr Ile

- 5           5) Use according to claim 4, characterized in that peptide has sequence ID N° (1), i.e. the sequence Pro-Leu-Asp-Thr-Ala-Lys-Val-Arg-Leu-Gln.
- 10          6) Use according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the peptide is selected among peptides from which at least one functional group is protected by a protective group, this protective group being either an acylation or an acetylation of the amino terminal end, or on an amidation or an esterification of the terminal carboxyl end, or both.
- 15          7) Use according to any of the preceding claims characterized in that the active agent is present, in the composition, with a concentration ranging from approximately 0.05 to 500 ppm, and preferentially with a concentration ranging from approximately 0.1 to 50 ppm compared to the total weight of the final preparation.
- 20          8) Use according to any of the preceding claims characterized in that the active agent is beforehand solubilized in one or more cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable solvents like water, ethanol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, ethoxylated or propoxylated diglycols, cyclic polyols, vaseline, a vegetable oil, or any mixture of these solvents.
- 25          9) Use according to any of the preceding claims characterized in that the active agent is beforehand solubilized in a cosmetic or pharmaceutical vector, like liposomes, or adsorbed on powdery organic polymers, mineral supports like talcs and bentonites, and more generally solubilized in, or fixed on, any cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vector.
- 30          10) Use of an efficient quantity of at least one active agent defined according to any of claims 1 to 9, in or for the preparation of a composition; the compound or the

composition being intended for the treatment of cellulite and/or orange-peel skin; and/or in order to reduce, eliminate, or prevent excess subcutaneous fat.

- 5 11) A cosmetic and/or dermatological and/or pharmaceutical composition characterized in that it contains, in an acceptable medium, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide such as defined according to any of claims 1 to 9.
- 10 12) Composition according to claim 11, characterized in that it takes the form of a cosmetic and/or dermatological composition adapted for cutaneous topical administration including a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable medium.
- 15 13) Composition according to any of claims 11 to 12, characterized in that it can take the form of an aqueous, hydro-alcoholic, or oil solution; or under the form of oil-in-water emulsions, water-in-oil emulsions, or multiple emulsions; or under the form of creams, suspensions, or powders. These compositions can also be more or less fluid or solid and can take the form of creams, lotions, milks, serums, ointments, gels, pastes, mousse, or sticks.
- 20 14) Process of cosmetic care intended to reduce, eliminate, and/or prevent excess subcutaneous fat, and/or intended to fight against cellulite, and/or to fight against the phenomenon of orange-peel skin, characterized in that one applies to the surface of the skin an effective quantity of a composition defined according to any of claims 11 to 13.